

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 09466 121456Z

41

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 OC-06 CCO-00 SS-15

SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /051 W

----- 100893

R 121348Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 559

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 9466

FOR AF/E BARRETT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJ: SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS /ETHIOPIA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 9345 AND PREVIOUS

1.DR. FLAIZ CALLED ON ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR ON AUG 12 TO REQUEST FURTHER ASSISTANCE RELATING TO SDA PRINTING PRESS PROBLEMS. FLAIZ ASKED EMBASSY TO TRANSMIT A MESSAGE TO SDA/ WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS WHICH SUGGESTED THAT SDA/WASHINGTON HQ INSTRUCT SDA/ETHIOPIA TO CLOSE PRINTING PRESS BECAUSE OF UNION DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES AND DECLINE IN SDA/ETHIOPIA REQUIREMENTS FOR PRINTED MATERIALS. BY OBTAINING INSTRUCTION FROM HEADQUARTERS TO CLOSE THE PRINTING PRESS, LOCAL SDA OFFICIALS HOPE TO AVOID POSSIBLE IMPRISONMENT OF SDA/ETHIOPIA PRESIDENT BEKELE HAY AND SDA LEGAL COUNSEL ATO SIMBATA, THE RATIONALE BEING THAT CLOSURE WAS NOT AT THEIR BEHEST BUT RATHER BASED ON DECISION BY INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND THEREFORE BEYOND THEIR CONTROL.

2. EMBASSY DECIDED AGAINST TRANSMITTING THIS MESSAGE BECAUSE (A) MESSAGE ESSENTIALLY INVOLVED TACTICAL MOVE ON PART OF SDA VIS-A-VIS ETHIOPIAN GOVT THE TRANSMISSION OF WHICH, IF IT EVER CAME TO LIGHT, COULD BE CONSTRUED BY ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS AS ABUSE OF EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, (B) HAVING ONCE EXTENDED THIS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 09466 121456Z

FACILITY TO SDA EMBASSY LIKELY TO BE SUBJECTED TO REPEATED

REQUESTS OF A SIMILAR NATURE,(C) THE WELFARE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IS NOT DIRECTLY AT STAKE -- BOTH INDIVIDUALS IN JEOPARDY OF IMPRISONMENT ARE ETHIOPIAN NATIONALS, (D) OTHER ORGANIZATIONS COULD WELL ASK THE EMBASSY FOR SIMILAR ASSISTANCE SHOULD WE DO IT FOR SDA, AND (E) IF TIME SHOULD COME WHEN IN JUDGMENT OF DEPT AND EMBASSY, WE SHOULD INTERVENE WITH EPMG ON BEHALF OF SDA, WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO SO WITHOUT PRIOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE. THUS FAR WE HAVE NO SUCH REQUEST FROM SDA. THEREFORE, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, EMBASSY INTENDS TO REFUSE TO TRANSMIT MESSAGES ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED PARA ONE ABOVE.

3. ACCORDING TO FLAIZ, SDA/ETHIOPIA HAS NOT HEARD FROM ROBERT PEARSON, GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SDA, WASHINGTON (REFTEL). EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF PEARSON'S REACTION TO MESSAGE FROM FLAIZ.
TIENKEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNITY RELATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS09466
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760310-1187
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760862/aaaacbtn.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ADDIS ABABA 9345
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS /ETHIOPIA
TAGS: PINT, ET, JEHOVAHS WITNESSES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006